

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 7(G)(2)(A)

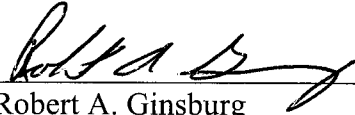
TO: Hon. Chairperson Barbara Carey-Shuler, Ed.D.
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: April 13, 2004

FROM: Robert A. Ginsburg
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution relating to
the Section 8 Housing
Choice Voucher Program

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Commissioner Rebeca Sosa, Commissioner Bruno A. Barreiro, Commissioner Jimmy L. Morales, Commissioner Natacha Seijas and Commissioner Katy Sorenson.


Robert A. Ginsburg
County Attorney

RAG/jls



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Hon. Chairperson Barbara Carey-Shuler, Ed.D.
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: April 13, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. A. Ginsburg", is positioned above the "FROM" field.

FROM: Robert A. Ginsburg
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 7(G)(2)(A)

Please note any items checked.

- ☐ "4-Day Rule" ("3-Day Rule" for committees) applicable if raised
- ☐ 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- ☐ 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- ☐ Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- ☐ Budget required
- ☐ Statement of fiscal impact required
- ☐ Bid waiver requiring County Manager's written recommendation
- ☐ Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing
- ☐ Housekeeping item (no policy decision required)
- ☐ No committee review

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 7(G)(2)(A)
4-13-04

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE PRESIDENT AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO REFRAIN FROM REDUCING OR CUTTING THE SECTION 8 HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM; URGING THE PRESIDENT AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT FULL FUNDING OF THE SECTION 8 HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the President's proposed new budget would cut funding for "Section 8" housing voucher program ("Program") in 2005 by more than \$1 billion below the 2004 level and would cut the Program further in subsequent years; and

WHEREAS, the budget also would make radical changes in the Program's structure, including but not limited to replacing the voucher program with a block grant to local housing agencies (labeled the "Flexible Voucher Program"); and in doing would repeal basic protections for low-income families, and elderly and disabled individuals; and

WHEREAS, the block-grant proposal would also leave the Program vulnerable to substantial further funding erosion over time; and

WHEREAS, these cuts are deeper, and the policy changes more sweeping and threatening to the low-income families and elderly and disabled individuals whom the program serves, than any proposal advanced by any prior Administration during the voucher program's 30-year history; and

WHEREAS, the Program is the nation's principal low-income housing assistance program and currently assists two million low-income households, most of them low-income working families, elderly people, or people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Program enables these households to afford decent, safe and sanitary rental units in the private housing market; and

WHEREAS, the budget proposal to cut and radically alter the program would almost certainly have harsh consequences for many of these families; and

WHEREAS, in order to operate the Program within the shrunken funding level resulting from the President's present budget, local housing agencies, including Miami-Dade Housing Agency ("MDHA"), will be forced to choose among several unappealing options, all of which would be injurious to low-income, elderly and disabled families; and

WHEREAS, these options may include reducing the number of families that are assisted, cutting costs by shifting the rental burden to low-income families, and the elderly and disabled, and/or cutting costs by shifting housing assistance to higher-income families; and

WHEREAS, families with incomes below this level that secure no help with rental costs are much more likely than families at higher income levels to pay exorbitant shares of their limited incomes for housing, to live in overcrowded or substandard housing, or to reside in blighted areas with poor schools and fewer job opportunities; which the Program was designed to overcome; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida presently has an allocation of approximately 87,000 Housing Choice Vouchers; and

WHEREAS, if the President's budget is approved it is estimated that by Year 2005 approximately 10,540 families in the State of Florida will not receive assistance; and

WHEREAS, further estimates show that by the Year 2009 the total number in the reduction of families who will not be assisted will be approximately 33,740; and

WHEREAS, many of the families impacted by this reduction reside in Miami-Dade County,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:

Section 1. The President and the United States Congress are urged to refrain from drastically reducing or cutting the Program.

Section 2. The President and the United States Congress are urged to support full funding for the Section 8 'Housing Choice' Voucher program in 2004.

Section 3. The Clerk of the Board is directed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the President, the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate and the Chair of the Miami-Dade County Legislative Delegation.

The foregoing resolution was sponsored by Commissioner Rebeca Sosa, Commissioner Bruno A. Barreiro, Commissioner Jimmy L. Morales, Commissioner Natacha Seijas and Commissioner Katy Sorenson and offered by Commissioner _____, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Dr. Barbara Carey-Shuler, Chairperson	
Katy Sorenson, Vice-Chairperson	
Bruno A. Barreiro	Jose "Pepe" Diaz
Betty T. Ferguson	Sally A. Heyman
Joe A. Martinez	Jimmy L. Morales
Dennis C. Moss	Dorin D. Rolle
Natacha Seijas	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 13th day of April, 2004. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.



Terrence A. Smith